Public Notice
December 2001

Park Avenue Elementary School Clean Up RAP Meeting Notice

Draft Remedial Action Plan and Negative Declaration Public Notice

It is DTSC's mission to protect public health and the environment from harmful exposure to hazardous substances.

State of California

California Environmental Protection Agency

INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Negative Declaration for the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD's) proposed removal of contaminated soil at Park Avenue Elementary School. This RAP addresses the removal and off-site disposal of contaminated soil located underneath playground surfaces as well as other areas within the school property. The Negative Declaration indicates that the proposed cleanup activities will not have a significant negative effect on the environment. The impacted soil will be removed and transported to a permitted offsite disposal facility.

Información en español: Si usted es un residente que vive cerca del direccionamiento indicado y quisiera la información en español o quisiera discutir este documento, favor de llamar: Eloy Florez en: 818.551.2875

Public Meeting

Public Meeting
Park Ave. Elementary School
8020 Park Avenue
Cudahy, CA
January 10, 2002
5:00 PM

Comment Period

A public comment period is scheduled for December 12, 2001 through January 18, 2002. All comments must be postmarked by January 18, 2002.

Please Mail Comments to:

Mr. Shahir Haddad, Project Manager, DTSC
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 91630

For additional Information about the meeting or this site please contact:

Eloy Florez
1011 North Grandview Ave.
Glendale CA, 91201
818.551.2875
eflorez@dtsc.ca.gov

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demands and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

SITE HISTORY

Park Avenue Elementary School is located at 8020 Park Avenue, Cudahy, California. PAES lies just west of the concrete channel of the Los Angeles River and is bounded on the south by a city park and municipal buildings, and on the west and north by residential neighborhoods.

Park Avenue Elementary School was built in 1968 on top of a closed dump and waste impoundments that had been filled with oily wastes. Oily and tarry substances seeping up through the pavement of the playground area lead to a 1989 determination by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), formerly Department of Health Services, that investigation and remediation of Park Avenue Elementary School is required in order to mitigate the potential threat to human health and the environment.

DTSC entered into a Consent Order with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in 1989. The Order required LAUSD to take appropriate action to permanently remedy the situation. In addition, the Order required the immediate design and construction of barriers as an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to prevent exposure to onsite contamination.

An engineered cap was installed in 1990 over the soil and waste material beneath the playground area. A passive gas collection system was placed under the cap. The cap consisted of several layers of sand, a plastic liner, asphalt paving and urethane surface coating. The gas collection system consisted of a series of slotted pipes that intercept vapor and route it to a point beyond the playground perimeter where it vents to the atmosphere.

The goal of the IRM was to provide protection of students and workers at Park Avenue Elementary School on an interim basis until funding becomes available to implement a final and permanent remedy. To ensure that the temporary IRM systems provided such protection, LAUSD began, with DTSC concurrence, long-term monitoring and maintenance of these systems. Occasionally, the appearance of blisters in the urethane surface of the cap would appear, especially during hot weather. The occurrence of these blisters raised concerns that harmful gasses might be escaping from beneath the cap. Subsequent investigations indicated that the bubbles were the product of heating of the urethane surface and associated expansion of air between the urethane and underlying asphalt surface and not due to harmful gases.

Meanwhile, in response to recently enacted legislation, the DTSC formed a new special schools division in 1999 to focus on environmental concerns at schools. This heightened focus, along with the renewed concerns at Park Avenue Elementary School, led to renewed active involvement by LAUSD and DTSC to complete the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process and develop a final remedy.

A Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed in 2000 to collect additional information and data required to develop a permanent remedy for Park Avenue Elementary School. A Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA) was also conducted to assess risks posed by the site. Also, LAUSD prepared a Feasibility Study

(FS) to develop, evaluate and compare cleanup alternatives for the site. Eight remedial alternatives were evaluated in detail, four for the playground area and four for the campus area. The alternatives evaluated for the playground area included no action, long-term maintenance and monitoring of the existing cap, upgrade existing cap pursuant to federal requirements for caps, and excavation of impacted soil. The alternatives evaluated for the campus area included no action, architectural barriers and ground cover maintenance, excavation of planters and asphalt cover maintenance and excavation of arsenic impacted soil in planters and paved areas.

In May 2001, LAUSD selected removal of all onsite contaminated soil as the permanent remedy. DTSC concurred that removal provides reliable and permanent long term protection of human health and the environment. In addition, DTSC requested the preparation of a RAP to provide detailed information on the cleanup.

This Draft RAP for Park Avenue Elementary School has been prepared by LAUSD and revised by DTSC. The RAP addresses the proposed remedial action for Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC's) in soil and buried waste material at Park Avenue Elementary School. This soil RAP is based on the results of the RI and BRA. Groundwater will be addressed in a separate RAP after completion of soil cleanup activities.

REMIDIAL ACTION ACTIVITIES

The proposed project consists of excavation of 39,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with volatile organic compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons and metals. Excavated soil will be hauled offsite and disposed off at an appropriate facility. Confirmatory soil sampling will be performed to assure achievement of cleanup goals. Finally, the excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil. The project is anticipated to commence in June 2002 and continue for six months.

Soil removal will be conducted based on a Remedial Design (RD) document which is a detailed DTSC-approved Workplan. The RD will address in detail soil excavation equipment and procedures, loading in trucks and transportation, waste handling and disposal, confirmatory soil sampling, and backfill with clean imported soil.

During removal, an earthmover will remove contaminated soil and place the removed soil in a temporary location adjacent to the excavation pits. A front-end loader will move the soil from the temporary location and stockpile it onsite. The stockpiled soil will then be shipped offsite as soon as logistically feasible. Dust control measures and air monitoring will be used during all soil moving operations. Stockpiled soil will be covered with plastic sheeting overnight and/or weekends. Care will be taken during remediation to prohibit spillage of contaminated soil into the street and minimize the potential for contamination on the outside of trucks during loading. The contaminated soil in the trucks will be covered during transportation. All equipment used onsite will be decontaminated prior to departing the site.

After the contaminated soil has been removed to the designated depths, confirmatory soil samples will be collected from the excavation. Adequate number of samples will be collected from the excavation to confirm that all remaining soil concentrations are below the site-specific cleanup levels specified in the RAP. If confirmatory

sampling reveals levels above cleanup targets, then contaminated soil will be removed and additional confirmatory sampling will be conducted. This process will continue until the site meets the cleanup objectives.

After completion of removal of contaminated soil and confirmatory sampling, clean fill soil will be imported. Prior to importing fill, the fill material will be evaluated thoroughly to confirm that it is free of contaminants. Clean fill material will be placed onsite and compacted as necessary.

During remediation, the school will be temporarily closed. Students will be relocated to the new Bell Elementary School located at Live Oak and Wilcox in Cudahy.

COMMENT PERIOD

Your participation is encouraged. Comments concerning the Draft RAP or proposed Negative Declaration may be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Shahir Haddad, Project Manager, DTSC
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 91201

All comments must be postmarked by January 18, 2002

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Should you have any additional questions about the Park Avenue Elementary School cleanup, please contact Eloy Florez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist by phone at 818.551.2875 or by e-mail at eflorez@dtsc.ca.gov.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Eloy Florez, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (818)551-2875.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, please call PPS, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818)551-2875.

Information Repositories

This RAP and the negative declaration, which are part of the Administrative Record for the site, as well as other documents relating to the Site are available for public review at the following locations:

Cudahy Public Library
5218 Santa Ana Street, Cudahy, California

California EPA, DTSC
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California

Park Avenue Elementary School
8020 Park Avenue, Cudahy, California

LAUSD, Office of Environmental Health & Safety
355 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach PPS at (818) 551-2875